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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

BENZIE, CLARE, KALKASKA, LAKE, LEELANAU, MANISTEE,
MECOSTA, MISSAUKEE, OSCEOLA, ROSCOMMON, WEXFORD

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
VICE-CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT
VICE-CHAIR, HISTORY, ARTS, AND LIBRARIES
COMMERCE AND LABOR
FINANCE

The Fourth of July brings to mind family picnics, parades and fireworks. Whether you are heading out to one of the many public displays in the area or celebrating at home with sparklers and fountains, a few simple safety tips will help ensure everyone has a good time.

At public displays, respect the safety barriers. Resist any temptation to get close to the actual firing site. In fact, the best view of the fireworks is from a quarter-mile or more away. Leave the lighting of the fireworks to the trained operators. Sparklers, fountains and other items can be dangerous when a large crowd is present.

Fireworks also can be a fun and exciting part of family get-togethers. If you celebrate with fireworks, select and use only legal devices. Always buy from reliable sellers, and never experiment or make your own fireworks. Never give fireworks to young children or leave older children unsupervised. Even sparklers can be unsafe if used improperly.

The Fourth of July is a festive time all over Michigan. By using common sense and following some basic safety rules, you can ensure everyone has a good time – and no one gets stuck watching the fireworks from the emergency room. I wish everyone in the 35th District a very happy Independence Day.

State Sen. Michelle McManus